Attorney Docket No.: 1000403-0001

Express Mail Label No. EU625636284US

|     | DECLARATIO           | ON          | ) |                             |
|-----|----------------------|-------------|---|-----------------------------|
|     | FOR UTILITY          | OR DESIGN   | ) | First Named Inventor:       |
|     | PATENT APP           | LICATION    | ) | Andrea Piana                |
|     | (37 C.F.R. §1.6      | 53)         | ) |                             |
|     | , v                  | •           | ) | Application Number:         |
| . > | <b>V</b> Declaration | Declaration | ) |                             |
|     | Submitted            | Submitted   | ) | Filing Date: Filed Herewith |
|     | With                 | After       | ) |                             |
|     | Initial              | Initial     | ) | Group Art Unit:             |
|     | Filing               | Filing      | ) |                             |
|     | J                    | J           | ) | Examiner Name:              |
|     |                      |             |   |                             |

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

## METHODS, SYSTEMS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR FIRE RETARDING SUBSTRATES

(Title of Invention)

the specification of which:

| (x) | is attached hereto, or                            |                  |  |  |  |
|-----|---|------------------|--|--|--|
| ( ) | was filed by an authorized person on my behalf on |                  |  |  |  |
| ` / | •   | (Date)           |  |  |  |
|     | as United States Application Number               |                  |  |  |  |
|     | or PCT International Application Number           |                  |  |  |  |
|     | and was amended on                                | (if applicable). |  |  |  |
|     | (Date)  | · ·              |  |  |  |

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below, and I have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application, on this invention filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns and having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Declaration

| Prior Foreign Application Number(s)  | Country  | Foreign<br><u>Filing Da</u>  |   | Priority<br>t Claimed                               | Certifi<br>Copy Att<br>Yes                      |   |  |  |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |   | _<br>_<br>_<br>_                                    | 00000   | 0000  | ·  |  |
| ☐ Additional fore  | ign application numb   | ers are listed on  | a supplementa   | al priority   | data sheet                                      | attached he   | reto.  |  |
| I hereby claim the application(s) liste  | benefit under Title 3 d below:   | 5, United States   | Code, §119(e)   | ) of any Ui   | nited State                                     | s provisiona  | .1   |  |
|  | Provisional Application Number(s)  |  |   | Provisional Application <u>Filing Date</u>          |   |   |  |  |
| U.S. Serial No. 60/430,027   |  |  | Nov   | November 29, 2002                                   |   |   |  |  |
| ☐ Additional prov  | visional application m   | umbers are listed  | on a supplen  | nental prior  | rity data sł                                    | neet attached   | d hereto.  |  |
| under §365(c) of a<br>insofar as the subj<br>PCT international<br>I acknowledge the<br>Code of Federal R | benefit under Title 3<br>my PCT international<br>ect matter of each of<br>application(s) in the<br>duty to disclose all i<br>egulations, §1.56, wh<br>T international filing | application(s) do<br>the claims of this<br>manner provided<br>information know<br>nich became avai | esignating the sapplication is by the first point by me to be lable between | United St<br>is not disclearagraph of<br>material t | ates of An osed in the of Title 35, to patental | nerica, listed<br>prior United<br>United Stat<br>pility as defi | d below and,<br>ed States or<br>es Code, §112<br>ned in Title 37 |  |
| Prior U.S.<br>Application Numb   | Inter  | or PCT<br>national<br>ion Number   | Filing Date of U.S. or PCI International Application                        | Γ<br>al   | Patent No                                       |   |  |  |
| ☐ Additional U.S<br>hereto.  | . or PCT internationa  | l application nun  | abers are liste   | d on a sup  | plemental                                       | priority data   | a sheet attache  |  |

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioners, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to LORD, BISSELL & BROOK, LLP, 115 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, Telephone No. (312) 443-0261, Facsimile No. (312) 443-0336:

| Registered<br><u>Practitioner</u> | Registration<br><u>Number</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Roberta L. Hastreiter             | 32,990                        |
| Scott B. Feder                    | 33,129                        |
| Keith D. Parr                     | 33,322                        |
| Paul J. Molino                    | 45,350                        |
| James H. Wynn                     | 45,545                        |

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity or enforceability of the application or any patent issued thereon.

#### Declaration

| Full name of sole or one joint inventor:  Inventor's signature:  Date: | Andrea Piana (Given hames first, with Family name last)  101 land 26, 2003 |
|--|--|
| Residence:   | 6695 Chesapeake Pt. Atlanta, GA 30328                                      |
|  | (City and State for U.S. Residents;<br>City and Country for others)        |
| Post Office Address:   |  |
| Citizenship:   | Italian Citizen (with United States Green Card)                            |
| Full name of sole or one joint inventor:                               | James L. Gaston (Given names first, with Family name last)                 |
| Inventor's signature:  | Movember 26, 2000  |
| Residence:   | 835 Old Wynd Ct.   |
| Residence.   | Spartanburg, SC 29301  |
|  | (City and State for U.S. Residents;<br>City and Country for others)        |
| Post Office Address:   |  |
| Citizenship:   | United States Citizen  |

### Supplemental Data Priority Sheet

| ☐ Additional foreign ap                                     | pplication numbers:                             |   |                      |                          |  |
|---|---|---|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Prior Foreign Application Number(s)                         | Country   | Foreign<br>Filing Date                          | Priority Not Claimed | Certif<br>Copy At<br>Yes |  |
|   |   |   | 0 0 0 0 0            | 0000                     |  |
| ☐ Additional provision                                      | al application number                           | s:  | ,                    |                          |  |
| Provisional Ap<br>Number                                    | Pr  | Provisional Application <u>Filing Date</u>      |                      |                          |  |
| ☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers: |   |   |                      |                          |  |
| Prior U.S.  Application Number                              | Prior PCT<br>International<br>Application Numbe | Filing Date U.S. or PC Internation  Application | Γ<br>al              | Patent N                 |  |

## PATENT APPLICATION Attorney Docket No. 1000403-0001

| Applicants: Andrea Piana and             | ) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"         |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| James L. Gaston                          | )  |  |  |
|  | ) "Express Mail" Mailing Label Number              |  |  |
| Filed: Herewith                          | ) <u>EU625636284US</u>                             |  |  |
|  | )  |  |  |
| Title: Methods, Systems and Compositions | ) Date of Deposit: November 26, 2003               |  |  |
| for Fire Retarding Substrates            | ) I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being |  |  |
| <b>G</b>                                 | ) deposited with the United States Postal Service  |  |  |
| Group Art Unit:                          | ) "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"          |  |  |
| •  | ) Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date           |  |  |
| Examiner:                                | ) indicated above and is addressed to              |  |  |
|  | ) Director of the United States Patent and         |  |  |
|  | ) Trademark Office, Attention: Commissioner for    |  |  |
|  | ) Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA           |  |  |
|  | ) 22313-1450.                                      |  |  |
|  | ) Roberta L. Hastreiter                            |  |  |
|  | (Typed or printed name of person mailing)          |  |  |
|  | (Typed of printed name of person maning)           |  |  |
|  | ) Noborta d. Hustertar                             |  |  |

# SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.27(a)(2)

Hon. Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Attention: Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The assignee of the invention described in the above-identified patent application ("the application"), NeWorld Fibers, LLC, of 835 Old Wynd Ct., Spartanburg, SC, 29301, qualifies as a "Small Business Concern" under 37 C.F.R. §1.27(a)(2) and, therefore, is entitled to small entity status, and to pay reduced fees, in connection with

November 26, 2003

the application.

Andrea Piana (Inventor)

James L. Gaston (Inventor)